

Get to know Mrs. Catherine Filene Shouse



Project Title	Get to know Mrs. Catherine Filene Shouse
Project Summary	Get to know Mrs. Shouse through conducting research on her personal and public life. The purpose of the research will be to develop web content.
Country	United States
Agency	National Park Service
DoS Office	N/A
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	1

Project Description

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts was established in 1966 as the only national park for the performing arts, and fifty years later, it remains unique. Founded by Mrs. Catherine Filene Shouse, who donated land and funds for the park, the centerpiece is the Filene Center, a 7000-seat outdoor performance venue set among woods and meadows. With both traditional seating and lawn seating, picnicking and concerts under the stars at the Filene Center are a summer tradition, where shows are offered ranging from symphonies to dance to jazz to rock and the latest pop stars. The park also offers a summer Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods performance series and tours of the Filene Center, while outdoor activities like hiking, picnicking, and sledding are available year-round.

Research Needs

The park's founder, Mrs. Catherine Filene Shouse, has a remarkable life story that links Wolf Trap's history with women's rights and progress, world travel, and philanthropy. Coming of age in the 1920s, she promoted women's advancement in the workplace, in women's prisons, and in the Democratic Party. She also supported causes ranging from relief in Europe after World War II, to dog breeding, to the performing arts. Already politically well-connected, the opening of the Filene Center in 1971 in suburban Virginia put Mrs. Shouse at the center of artistic life in the Washington DC area for a quarter of a century. Basic and more in-depth content is needed for the park website to help tell the story of Mrs. Shouse and her vision for Wolf Trap.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

The current park website can be viewed at www.nps.gov/wotr. As one can see, we do not have any information currently about Mrs. Shouse on our website. We can help provide some information in addition to other open sources of publicly available information. Content should be written so that it is accessible to a wide age range, educational and cultural background.

Language Requirements

None